

September 7, 1965

To the Editor

Freedom House and Vietnam

The editorial "Public Opinion and Vietnam" in the August 10th NATIONAL REVIEW employs a false assumption as the basis for an erroneous conclusion.

Referring to an advertisement sponsored by Freedom House in support of the Administration's Vietnam policy, you state: "There is ample reason to believe that the impetus, and perhaps the financial backing, for this Freedom House endeavor have their origin in the White House."

The above implication is completely false. Several meetings of our Board were devoted to the American involvement in Vietnam. Both the impetus and the financial backing for the recent Freedom House effort came from within our organization, without White House stimulation. The initiative was entirely our own. We naturally invited and welcomed the President's reaction to our statement of support, but President Johnson and his associates were in no way responsible for our action.

New York, N.Y.

GEORGE FIELD
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Freedom House